

March 13th, 1967

Miss Barbara Berger, Past President, Student Government  
Student Government Association  
University of Pennsylvania  
Philadelphia 4, Pa.

Dear Miss Berger:

Your undated letter and the enclosed resolution passed by the University of Pennsylvania Student Government on February 20th, 1967, has been received.

The first question that occurs to me is -- "Why is the Past President, Student Government, and the Past Chairman, External Affairs Committee of Student Government, writing to me about a resolution adopted by the University of Pennsylvania Student Government?" I would like to know why the Present President and Chairman did not send this information to me, and I would like to be enlightened on this point.

After carefully reading your letter and carefully reviewing the resolution, I would like to suggest that the Student Government Association give more mature and informed consideration to the matter of the CIA involvement with the NSA. I have just read a joint statement by the 12 Past Presidents of the NSA in which they categorically deny that the CIA attempted to influence any action of the NSA. Thus, there is no basis in fact for paragraph #5 of your resolution. Further, each Past President states that after their election as President they were fully briefed as to the role the CIA was playing in connection with the NSA, and they voluntarily agreed to continue this association. Your statement certainly does not substantiate the conclusions reached in paragraph #7 of your resolution.

The funds directed to the NSA by the CIA enabled the NSA to do a better job of representing the students of the United States throughout the world and advancing true principles of democracy, which is the objective you state in the first paragraph of your resolution. Without this financial assistance the NSA could not have done the good job that it has been doing and the Past Presidents of the NSA have stated that their efforts to raise sufficient money to operate without the financial assistance of the CIA were unsuccessful.

It is a well known fact that the Communist countries have been financing their student organizations to the tune of many millions of

- 2 -

dollars each year to enable them to demonstrate against the United States, burn libraries in foreign countries which were built with American funds, and then, in general, do everything possible to embarrass this country abroad. The funds received from the CIA enabled the NEA to help combat this sort of thing.

Please keep in mind that the CIA was set up as the intelligence arm of this country after the disaster at Pearl Harbor. Virtually our entire Pacific Fleet was destroyed at Pearl Harbor and rectifying the damage caused at Pearl Harbor cost this country tens of thousands of lives and billions of dollars. We can never permit such a thing to happen again.

We can never be certain that the CIA has all of the information on any subject or that all of the information developed by the CIA will be completely accurate, as there just is not any way of accomplishing this in the field of international intelligence. However, the CIA is doing a good job under the present circumstances, and the action of the CIA in helping to finance the NEA has done nothing to place the American people in jeopardy.

Sincerely,

Lawrence G. Williams, M.C.

LGW:ag

CC - Daniel Finnerty, Past Chairman, External Affairs  
Committee of Student Government